



Ashmole Poetry Festival 2024

On 13th June, 67 of our year 7s treated parents and staff to an amazing evening of performances of their own poetry. The standard of writing and performance was brilliant and students showed impressive courage in standing under the lights and reciting to a large crowd. The Voice choir and band opened the evening with two powerful numbers.



Parents tried their skills at a music quiz and composing their own haikus. We heard some teachers read their favourite poems too and we welcomed back two of last year's winners, Isaac Clifford and Emma Barton, to perform for us again.

Huge congratulations to all students who took part and to our winners:



- Best Anthologies: Zoe W and Julia O
- Best Individual Poem: Zac T
- Best Group Poem: Elizabeth L and Valentina W
- Best performance: Leah M
- Special Award for Reflecting Ashmole Values: Hugh S
- Young Poet of the Year: Erin C



Students also enjoyed the opportunity to browse a fantastic selection of contemporary children's and young adult literature at a book fair provided by the award-winning Children's Bookshop, Muswell Hill (<https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/>).

We hope this helps inspire their next creative writing adventures!

Ms Agnew





Time to celebrate as Carnegie winner announced

Every Summer the Carnegie award for the best YA Fiction novel is decided upon by a panel of judges. This week marked the end of Carnegie 2024 and around 50 Year 8 and 9 students, who, since March, have been reading as many of the 8 shortlisted books as possible, gathered in the Library at lunchtime to celebrate their achievement.



Before they enjoyed some well earned refreshments, students were congratulated on their reading attendance at discussion meetings and the many reviews that they have published online and in our Carnegie magazine. Then it was time to discover which books had won each of the votes: the National "Shadows' award" voted for by student reading groups across the country, our own Ashmole favourite and finally, the judges' actual winner.



Both the nationwide Shadows' choice and our own Ashmole winner was revealed to be "Crossing The Line" by Tia Fisher. This was a firm favourite among us, telling the story of teenager Erik as he is drawn into a deepening trap, recruited by a drugs gang and running county lines.

In the end though, the 2024 winner picked by the Judges was, "The Boy Lost in the Maze" by Joseph Coelho.



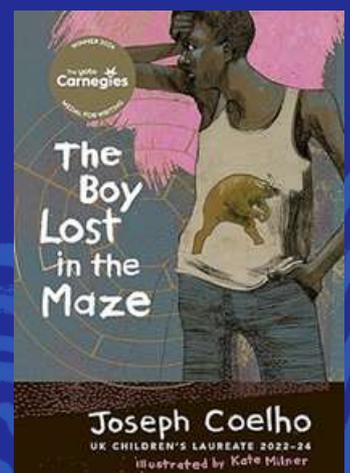
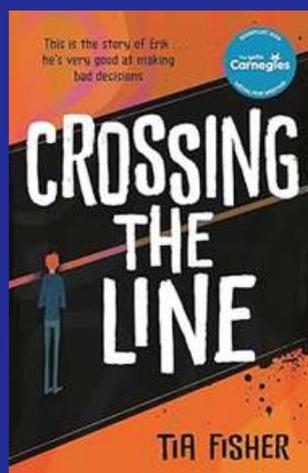
This intricate and powerful verse novel interweaves the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur with a modern day tale of Theo - both stories of young men on a quest to find their fathers and prove themselves. All the amazing shortlisted books are now available to borrow from the Library shelves.



Come and take a look at the reviews and information displayed to see which one you will read first!

Well done all Carnegie readers 2024!

WELL DONE
CARNEIGE READERS!



Junior Physics Challenge Results



Gold: Abi, Kuzey, Yvaine, Meisha

Silver: Sam, Denis, Tobias, Ela K, Ali, Sans, Kerim, Dimoula, Haidar, Dario, Ryan, Ahmetmert, Jordan

Bronze: Frankie, Furkan, Karya, Thomas, Marco, Ahmed, Emily, Musab, Raphael, Alara



Junior Physics Challenge

27 Year 10 students at Ashmole took part in the Junior Physics Challenge in May, completing two 25 minute exam papers alongside 15,000 Year 10 students across the country.

All Ashmole students who took part were rewarded with at least a Bronze certificate for their success but special mention must go to Abi E. who scored 47/60, putting her in the top 100 of all participants, which is a tremendous achievement. The average score nationally was 32/60. Mr Costello



MedSoc

Our Medsoc students are required to take a challenging 2-hour aptitude test (UCAT) over the summer in order to apply for Medicine and Dentistry. To support them with UCAT preparation, two Ashmole Alumni students studying Medicine, Duvindi K and Eliana N were invited to join Medsoc this month.



Duvindi, who has finished her first year at Exeter University, went through the different sections of the test, how long to spend on them, and how to tackle the different styles of questions. Eliana, who has finished her first year at Cambridge University, modelled test questions from different sections and provided the students with invaluable tips from her own experience.

We are so grateful to both Duvindi and Eliana for taking the time to support our aspiring Medics - here's wishing our Medsoc pupils lots of luck for their UCAT in the summer! Mrs D Shah



Year 9 Chemistry

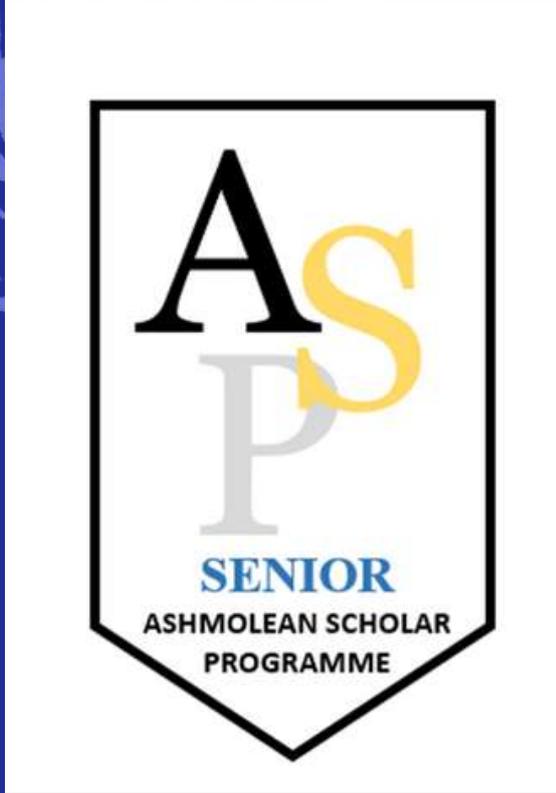
Our year 9 Chemistry students have had a great start to their GCSE course and have worked really hard. This week we have been learning about electronic configuration and students made models of elements using molymods and electrons shells drawn on tables.

Ms Patel

Good luck Year 10 & 12 !

Work Experience Week

Good luck to the Year 10s and Year 12s who are currently taking place in work experience placement this week! This is a great opportunity to develop practical skills and gain real-world insights that complement academic learning which will enhance future employability!



Senior Scholars

The Senior Scholar Programme finished this year with a project competition open to all Year 9 and Year 10 scholars.

The Senior Scholars were asked to record a short presentation on a project or interest they had. Many used ideas from some of the sessions they attended this year, whilst others came up with their own ideas. The standard was very high and all who entered are congratulated and should be proud of their efforts. There were two runner up prizes for Hayden C and Evangeline L in Year 9, who both produced amazing presentations.

The winners were: Aiza T in Year 9 for her Art based project 'Is there a future for digital Art?', and Sans M in Year 10 for his Philosophy based project 'Is there anything real?'.

Well done to all the Senior Scholars this year, and congratulations to our competition winners!



Mr Ford



Aiza T in Year 9 for her Art based project 'Is there a future for digital Art?'

Is Anything Real? - RS , Philosophy presented by Sans Mustafa

Where are your fingers? It may seem like a pretty obvious question and you should be able to answer it, but how do you know where your fingers are? How does anyone know anything? You might say you know where your fingers are because you are looking at them or because you can touch them. Your senses are a great way to learn things and we have ways more than the usual 5 senses we talk about, we have about double if not more than 5 senses. The usual 5 are sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell but there is also the sense of time, pain, temperature, balance... However our senses are not perfect, there are optical illusions, audio illusions... that trick our brain and our senses.

The philosophy of knowledge, the study of knowing, is called Epistemology. Plato famously said that the things we know are things that are true, that we believe and that we have justification for believing. Those justifications may be irrational or they might be rational or they might be based on proof, the problem with proof is that the word proof is not a synonym for true.

However there are things that we can know without needing proof, things that we know are true from reason alone. These are things that we know a priori, for example, "Every apple is a fruit" is a priori statement, since it shows simple logical reasoning and isn't a statement of fact about a specific case: "apples are sweet" is a posteriori, as it expresses something the speaker knows from experience.

Optical Illusions

Sans M in Year 10 for his Philosophy based project 'Is there anything real?'

Mr Ford

Maths Week

This week is Maths Week London. There will be slides in form time with some maths games, puzzles for the students!

The puzzle for staff:

The winner for the logical answer is Mr Costello who was the first one to say 1 coffin (question was worded badly). However, there were some mathematicians who did the mathematical version and used the perfect square, and this prize goes to Su Su! The answer was 22. This answer was also given by Evangelos who used an extremely complicated IT method to work out the answer. Finally, Patrick McKinney used the binary method to solve this, picture attached. Well done all, prizes will be delivered to you!

Ms Haque

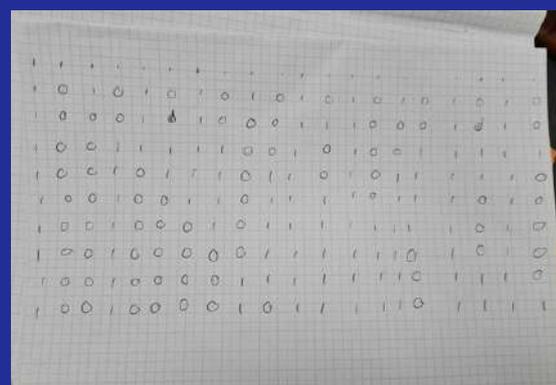
Monday's Activity – Frog Game

Instructions

- Move the pink frogs and blue frogs to the opposite sides
- Start with 2 blue and 2 pink frogs
- Work out the sequence of movements
- Frogs can only move forward
- Frogs can only jump over 1 frog at a time

• Why not try different combinations of frogs

Good luck! [Link to the game](#)





KS3 History Society - Full steam ahead!

Zac in year 7 produced a wonderful presentation to the KS3 History society on the history and development of trains in the UK and beyond. It was very well researched and Zac showed an impressive level of knowledge on the topic.

Mr Halford



Politics Society

Politics scholars Athena, Karan and Aaron displayed excellent subject knowledge when presenting to the Politics Society on UK current affairs and the economic system. They were also able to answer an impressive range of complicated questions from the audience.

Mr Halford



Whipsnade Zoo Trip

On the 19th and 20th June a total of 224 year 8 students visited ZSL Whipsnade to bring the theory of their lessons on adaptation and evolution to life. The students toured the park with a designated teacher and had a workshop session delivered by experts. During the workshop the students looked at skulls of various species of animals and discussed how their key features helped them to survive.

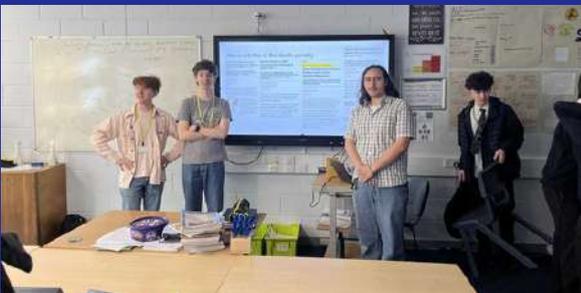


This was followed up by a presentation on how changing climate may affect organisms' ability to adapt to their surroundings and hence pass on their genetic traits.

Amongst the plethora of organisms on show a particular highlight was a baby giraffe which had only been born on the 17th of June.



The feedback from the visit was overwhelming positive despite the amount of walking they had to do. Mr Cummings



Model Units Nations

Students involved in our Model United Nations group have been very busy in recent weeks presenting and discussing some of the most important issues of the day, both from local, national and international perspectives. Topics covered so far have included issues such as climate change and the death penalty.



The standard of debate has been highly impressive and thought-provoking.

Ms Cork and Mr Halford

Ashmole Academy Concert Week

Last week we held two concerts - both of which were amazing!



Tuesday 18th June - an Evening of Rock and Roll

This was a very lively concert showcasing lots of different sorts of genres of music. All the bands that performed were student-led bands and although the music department mentored and advised along the way, the bands rehearsed themselves, organised themselves and chose their own repertoire and band names.

'I particularly enjoyed performing Great Balls of Fire' Andy A Year 9

'I loved being able to sing and play bass guitar at the same time!' Spike H Year 9

'Playing with talented and passionate musicians is so enjoyable' Florence V Year 9



Thursday 20th June - Celebrating a Year of Music Making

This concert celebrated a year of music making at Ashmole Academy and included some of the bands from Tuesdays' concert, and other ensembles that are part of our co-curricular programme.

We heard music from our Junior and Senior Orchestras, our Junior Choir 'Voice' and our Senior Choir. The two choirs collaborated to perform an amazing rendition of 'California Dreaming'. We were delighted to welcome two students from Ashmole Primary School - Anoushka and Seth both of whom are part of our Junior Orchestra.

We also heard from Soul Band, who had the audience rocking to 'Great Balls of Fire' and 'Funky Town' which was our finale.

A particular shout out to Mr Egan who is leaving us as he is relocating. He has been an inspiration to so many students throughout his years here, as well as being an amazing colleague and friend. He had a big surprise at the concert as students and staff performed 'At the End of the Line' for him by the Travelling Willburys, one of his favourite bands.

We would like to thank all the students who performed - each and every one of them, who without a doubt, demonstrated all of our Ashmole Values. We would like to thank our parent/carers who helped and supported us by getting students to rehearsals and encouraging them to practice repertoire, and to all the staff who volunteered to help on our concert evenings.

'I was so excited to perform as lead singer in a band which I created and singing one of my favourite songs' - Arisia V 9BAF

'It was fun being able to share our music-making activities with the public. I love singing with my friends in senior choir!' Hayden C 9BAF

'The concert was a great way of expressing our own tastes in music. The grand piano was amazing to play' Radu P Year 9

'This year's summer concert was by far the best we've done so far! I loved performing in multiple bands and I'm so grateful for the musical opportunities. Andy A Year 9



Please note that our Co-curricular activities have now stopped for this year but will start again in September.



Year 9 Trip to Águilas, Spain.

From the 9th to the 13th of June, 39 Year 9 students travelled with 5 teachers to the south of Spain. We stayed in the captivating town of Águilas in the Region of Murcia, renowned for its stunning beaches and rich cultural heritage. The trip to Águilas was fantastic. Every day, students attended Spanish lessons and had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish culture. Some highlights included a visit to Águilas Castle, where students enjoyed views of the town and took impressive pictures and a visit to the historic town of Cartagena.



Students also had the chance to play games by the beach and to use their Spanish in the center of Águilas while shopping for souvenirs. Thank you to Miss Bennet, Miss Best, Mr Graham and Mr Isnardi for taking part in the trip and to all of the students for making it such a memorable trip to Águilas. Miss Gallani



On the 9th of June, a group of students from Year 9 were given the opportunity to go to Águilas in Spain for 4 nights. Throughout this trip, we immersed ourselves in the Spanish culture and language. On our first full day, we spent the morning doing beach sports and we had a great Spanish dancing lesson, as well as taking part in a game of bingo. We had a photo scavenger hunt and finished the night with some karaoke. The next day, we spent the day in Cartagena, where we visited two museums, the Roman Theatre Museum and the Peral Submarine Museum, as well as doing some local shopping and buying souvenirs. To end the day, we had an entertaining talent show.



On our last full day in Spain, we had a Spanish cooking lesson, where we learnt how to make bolitas, and we spent more time at the beach. Thank you to all the teachers who organised the trip and thank you to our group leaders! Ruby

STUDENT SPANISH TRIP COMMENT

My favourite part of the Spanish trip was visiting the castle and seeing the views. Also, I really enjoyed going to the beach and doing activities with my friends. I would rate the trip a 9/10. ZACH



I found the Spanish trip a great insight to Spanish culture. The Spanish dancing lessons were very immersive. We also had the opportunity to learn a lot of Spanish in our daily lessons, that were taught by the people working at the hostel. My favourite part was the trips to the beach where fun games were run for all to join. RACHEL



My favourite part of the Spanish trip was the food and the activities. I also improved my Spanish. The sights were also very interesting. ABIGAIL

Going on the Spanish trip was a very fun experience as I got to visit new places and experience a new culture. I enjoyed going to the beach and spending time with my friends and I also learnt some new vocabulary along the way. My favourite part, was when we visited Cartagena, I enjoyed the museums because of the history we learnt. Overall, I very much recommend this trip to any future Year 9 students. ANDY